

Remarks/Arguments:

Claim Status:

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-12, 14-24, 26 and 27 are pending in the present case. The features of claims 3 and 6 have been included in amended claim 1. The features of claim 13 have been included in amended claim 11. The features of claim 25 have been included in amended claim 22. Thus, claims 3, 6, 13 and 25 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof. Claim 27 has been added, and support for this claim is found on Page 9, Lines 3-8, for example. No new matter is being presented.

Claim Objections:

Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, 4, 11, 18 and 22 consistent with Examiner's helpful suggestions. Applicants have also amended claims 7, 14 and 16 to address similar informalities.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112:

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 recites (1) a plurality of cells; (2) a computer module configured for insertion into **a respective one of said cells** through said respective opening; and (3) a cell cover substantially covering at least one of said openings adjacent **a cell not occupied** by said computer module.

For the purposes of clarification, the computer system, as recited in claim 1, comprises a plurality of cells. A computer module is configured to occupy one of the cells. A cell cover covers a cell that is **not** occupied by the computer module. Proper support for this claim may be found on Sheet 7, Lines 1-20 of the specification and Figure 2, for example. Furthermore, the term 'other', which is referred to in Paragraph 3 of the Office Action, has been deleted from claim 1 for the purpose of clarity. Applicants believe that this rejection is now moot in view of the amendments to claim 1 and the foregoing explanation.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e):

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Barringer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,785,133 B2). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of these claims and respectfully submit that these claims are patentable over Barringer et al. for the reasons set forth below.

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites limitations that are neither disclosed nor suggested by Barringer et al., namely:

a **cell cover** substantially covering at least one of said openings adjacent a cell not occupied by said computer module; and a **gap cover** substantially covering a gap defined between said computer module and at least one of a plurality of support members included in said frame, ***wherein said gap is not configured to receive said computer module***

As described in Applicants specification, "Cell cover 120 is provided over opening 112 (not shown in Figure 2), gap cover 122 is provided over gap 112b, and gap cover 124 is provided over gap 112a. By substantially closing off opening 112 and gaps 112a-112b, potential for air recirculation of cooling gas in computer system 100 is substantially reduced." Page 7, Lines 16-20.

Barringer et al. disclose that "if a DASD carrier 54 is not used, a DASD filler 72 is used to cover its empty bay to preserve cooling air flow" (Column 5, Lines 41-43). Thus, a DASD filler 72 covers an empty bay of the subsystem if a DASD carrier 54 is not used. Applicants respectfully submit that Barringer et al. do not disclose a **gap cover** substantially covering a gap that is not configured to receive a computer module.

Barringer et al. therefore fail to disclose or suggest every element of Applicants' claimed invention, as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, for the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable over Barringer et al. and should be allowed. Claim 2 is dependent upon claim 1, and therefore should also be allowed at least as dependent upon an allowable base claim. Reconsideration of claims 1 and 2 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 4-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Jelinger (U.S. Patent No. 5,768,097). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of these

claims and respectfully submit that these claims are patentable over Jelinger et al. for the reasons set forth below.

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites limitations that are neither disclosed nor suggested by Jelinger et al., namely:

a gap cover substantially covering a gap defined between said computer module and at least one of a plurality of support members included in said frame, wherein said gap is not configured to receive said computer module, wherein said **cell cover and said gap cover limit cooling gas used to cool a portion of the computer system from being recirculated** into any of said plurality of cells.

As described in Applicants specification, "Cell cover 120 is provided over opening 112 (not shown in Figure 2), gap cover 122 is provided over gap 112b, and gap cover 124 is provided over gap 112a. By substantially closing off opening 112 and gaps 112a-112b, potential for air recirculation of cooling gas in computer system 100 is substantially reduced." Page 7, Lines 16-20.

Jelinger et al. teach a reconfigurable modular computer assembly. The computer assembly comprises a housing having parallel longitudinal guide walls and a main chassis for carrying electronic components. In a preferred embodiment, a 3.5 inch drive cage sub-chassis and a 5.25 inch drive cage sub-chassis are removably attached to the main chassis. Jelinger et al. disclose that "the computer assembly 800 also includes a second spacer 812 to cover the empty space caused by the narrower 3.5 inch floppy disk drives 811" (Column 8, Lines 10-13). Applicants respectfully submit that there is no suggestion or indication that the second spacer 812 limits cooling gas used to cool a portion of the computer system from being recirculated. The second spacer 812 serves no functional purpose, as it is merely included to cover an empty space for ornamentation purposes.

Furthermore, Jelinger et al. also disclose that "the second spacer 812 includes snaps that engage snap-receiving tabs 612 on the top and bottom edges of the **faceplate 113**." Column 8, Lines 18-20. Applicants submit that the faceplate 113 is not a support member included in a frame of a computer system. Thus, the second spacer 812 is not attached to a support member included in a frame, as recited in claim 1.

Jelinger et al. neither disclose nor suggest a gap cover that limits cooling gas used to cool a portion of the computer system from being recirculated. Jelinger et al. therefore fail to disclose or suggest every element of Applicants' claimed invention, as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, for the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable over Jelinger et al. and should be allowed. Claims 4, 5 and 7-9 are dependent upon claim 1, and therefore should also be allowed at least as dependent upon an allowable base claim. Reconsideration of claims 1, 4, 5 and 7-9 is respectfully requested.

Claims 11-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Barringer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,785,133 B2). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of these claims and respectfully submit that these claims are patentable over Barringer et al. for the reasons set forth below.

Independent claim 11, as amended, recites limitations that are neither disclosed nor suggested by Barringer et al., namely:

a gap is defined between said computer module and at least one of said support members and said **gap is not configured to receive said computer module**; and a **gap cover substantially covering said gap**, wherein said gap cover is positioned over said gap such that cooling gas used to cool a portion of the computer system is limited from being recirculated into any of said plurality of cells

Barringer et al. disclose that "if a DASD carrier 54 is not used, a DASD filler 72 is used to cover its empty bay to preserve cooling air flow" (Column 5, Lines 41-43). Applicants respectfully submit that Barringer et al. do not disclose a gap cover substantially covering a gap that is not configured to receive a computer module.

Barringer et al. therefore fail to disclose or suggest every element of Applicants' claimed invention, as recited in claim 11. Accordingly, for the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 11 is patentable over Barringer et al. and should be allowed. Claims 12, 14 and 15 are dependent upon claim 11, and therefore should also be allowed at least as dependent upon an allowable base claim. Reconsideration of claims 11, 12, 14 and 15 is respectfully requested.

Claims 11, 14 and 16-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Jelinger et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,768,097). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of

these claims and respectfully submit that these claims are patentable over Jelinger et al. for the reasons set forth below.

Independent claim 11, as amended, recites limitations that are neither disclosed nor suggested by Jelinger et al., namely:

a gap is defined between said computer module and at least one of said support members and said gap is not configured to receive said computer module; and a gap cover substantially covering said gap, wherein said **gap cover is positioned over said gap such that cooling gas used to cool a portion of the computer system is limited from being recirculated** into any of said plurality of cells

As mentioned above, Jelinger et al. neither disclose nor suggest a gap cover that limits cooling gas used to cool a portion of the computer system from being recirculated. Jelinger et al. therefore fail to disclose or suggest every element of Applicants' claimed invention, as recited in claim 11. Accordingly, for the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 11 is patentable over Jelinger et al. and should be allowed. Claims 14 and 16-20 are dependent upon claim 11, and therefore should also be allowed at least as dependent upon an allowable base claim. Reconsideration of claims 11, 14 and 16-20 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 10, 11 and 21-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Garnett et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,829,141 B2). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of these claims and respectfully submit that these claims are patentable over Garnett et al. for the reasons set forth below.

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites limitations that are neither disclosed nor suggested by Garnett et al., namely:

a **gap cover substantially covering a gap** defined between said computer module and at least one of a plurality of support members included in said frame, wherein **said gap is not configured to receive said computer module**, wherein said cell cover and said gap cover limit cooling gas used to cool a portion of the computer system from being recirculated into any of said plurality of cells.

Garnett et al. discloses that "where no active module is mounted in a location for an information processing module, a blanking panel, or filler panel, such as the blanking panel 44, can be located in that location" (Column 6, Lines 46-49). The blanking panel 44 is configured to cover an opening of an empty cell that is not occupied by an active module. In contrast,

claim 1 recites a gap cover that covers a gap that is not configured to receive a computer module.

Furthermore, Garnett et al. neither disclose nor suggest that the blanking panel 44 limits cooling gas used to cool a portion of the computer system from being recirculated. In contrast, Garnett et al. describe that "in use air can pass through the apertures 65 to flow into the shelf enclosure 47 to reach FRU's that are mounted in the shelf enclosure 47 through the rear face 59 thereof. Air flowing through the aperture 65 flows into a plenum changer 66." Column 6, Lines 37-43. Thus, even if a blanking panel 44 is installed over an empty cell, recirculated air can enter into the shelf enclosure through apertures 65 positioned directly above the blanking panel 44. Moreover, similar to information processing cartridges 43, blanking panel 44 also includes perforations 115 to permit air or recirculated air to pass through the blanking panel 44 and into the shelf enclosure 47, as illustrated in Figure 3. As described in Garnett et al. "the front face 102 of the information processing cartridge 43 has perforations 115, in the present example slits, to allow for airflow into the information processing cartridge 43." Column 8, Lines 57-60.

Garnett et al. therefore fail to disclose or suggest every element of Applicants' claimed invention, as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, for the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable over Garnett et al. and should be allowed. Claim 10 is dependent upon claim 1, and therefore should also be allowed at least as dependent upon an allowable base claim. Reconsideration of claims 1 and 10 is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 11, as amended, recites limitations that are neither disclosed nor suggested by Garnett et al., namely:

a gap is defined between said computer module and at least one of said support members and said **gap is not configured to receive said computer module**; and a **gap cover substantially covering said gap**, wherein said gap cover is positioned over said gap such that cooling gas used to cool a portion of the computer system is limited from being recirculated into any of said plurality of cells

As previously mentioned, Garnett et al. discloses that "where no active module is mounted in a location for an information processing module, a blanking panel, or filler panel, such as the blanking panel 44, can be located in that location" (Column 6, Lines 46-49). The blanking panel 44 is configured to cover an opening of an empty cell that is not occupied by an active module. In contrast, claim 11 recites a gap cover that covers a gap that is not configured to receive a computer module. Furthermore, Garnett et al. neither indicate nor

suggest that the blanking panel 44 limits cooling gas used to cool a portion of the computer system from being recirculated.

Garnett et al. therefore fail to disclose or suggest every element of Applicants' claimed invention, as recited in claim 11. Accordingly, for the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 11 is patentable over Garnett et al. and should be allowed. Claim 21 is dependent upon claim 11, and therefore should also be allowed at least as dependent upon an allowable base claim. Reconsideration of claims 11 and 21 is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 22, as amended, recites limitations that are neither disclosed nor suggested by Garnett et al., namely:

covering, with a gap cover, a gap defined between the computer module and at least one of a plurality of support members included in the frame, wherein the gap is not configured to receive a computer module.

As stated previously, Garnett et al. does not disclose a gap cover that covers a gap that is not configured to receive a computer module, as recited in claim 22. Garnett et al. therefore fail to disclose or suggest every element of Applicants' claimed invention, as recited in claim 22. Accordingly, for the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 22 is patentable over Garnett et al. and should be allowed. Claims 23, 24 and 26 are dependent upon claim 22, and therefore should also be allowed at least as dependent upon an allowable base claim. Reconsideration of claims 22-24 and 26 is respectfully requested.

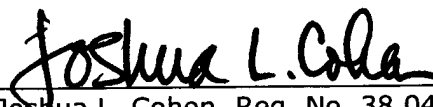
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Conclusion

In view of the amendments in the claims and the remarks set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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